

4-17-2007

## The Hilltop 4-17-2007

Hilltop Staff

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## Bonding Over Bloodshed

*33 Perish at Virginia Tech in Deadliest U.S. Shooting*

“YOU REALIZE LIFE IS A GIFT. YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE EPIPHANIES; THINGS LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN AT HOWARD. IT JUST MAKES ME THINK THAT I’M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, TO BE GOING TO SCHOOL.”

*Christina Burton, cousin of a Virginia Tech student*



Christina Burton, a sophomore print journalism major at Howard, has yet to contact her cousin—a Virginia Tech student—following the mass murder on the school’s Blacksburg, Va. campus. Burton attempted to call her cousin, Trisha Ford, a 20-year-old undecided sophomore at Virginia Tech three times yesterday. Burton assumes that Ford’s mother has also been attempting to contact her to no avail.

Monday afternoon, approximately fifty faculty, students and staff assembled on the Howard University Yard at 4 p.m. under the gray and rainy sky to reflect and pray for the slain members of the Virginia Tech community. Burton was one of many students who attended the vigil in observance of the tragic shootings. Her cousin’s situation made the vigil a personal, emotionally taxing issue.

See **VTECH** on Page 6

STORY BY SAKITA HOLLEY & PHILLIP LUCAS · PHOTO BY DERELL SMITH



# Town Hall Meeting Leaves Tough Questions Unanswered

BY VANESSA ROZIER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Students, faculty and staff gathered in the Blackburn Center Ballroom to hear an address from President H. Patrick Swygert, an evaluation of Howard University and any plans for the future in a Town Hall meeting held Monday night.

"The university is in great shape right now," Swygert said. This year, applications for admission into Howard University have increased from 19,000 last fall to 20,000 for this fall, making Howard a "hot school," according to Swygert. "We have outstanding student demand," he said proudly.

In review of this past academic year, it was announced that the university has met and surpassed the capital campaign goal of \$250 million by raising \$261 million 10 months ahead of schedule. Swygert said that the money raised reflects the confidence that donors have in Howard students.

"You have to continue to conduct yourselves in a way to warrant that support," he said. After hearing about almost 600 students spending their spring break in New Orleans to help with the rebuilding efforts, Swygert said that it inspires others to donate more.

President Swygert briefly mentioned his anticipation of Oprah Winfrey's visit for this year's commencement ceremony, as well as the permanence of being a Howard graduate. The floor was then open to answer as many questions as time could allow from audience members.

Audience members were looking for answers to their concerns regarding Internet access on campus, updated computers for the iLab, building maintenance – particularly Founders Library, Frederick Douglass Hall and the School of Social Work. Students inquired about the accessibility to more e-journals in the library system, more reliable shuttle services and more. These questions were met with anecdotes and, in one instance, no response.

Audience members largely walked away from the Town Hall meeting feeling unsatisfied with how the President addressed their concerns, saying that he acknowledged the current state, but failed to provide solid plans or solu-



Many students felt President Swygert displayed an evasive attitude regarding questions on the future of the Howard University while focusing his attention more on the school's current status.

tions. Some felt that President Swygert evaded the questions and made a joke out of them by laughing at times.

"It was great but I wish that he could have been more specific," said William Roberts, junior political science major and Howard University Student Association vice president elect.

Disappointed with the student turnout regardless

of the publicity, Roberts said that HUSA plans to implement monthly topic-based forums for the student body to have specific questions answered and certain concerns addressed. Topics are predicted to include the shuttle service and Sodexho.

Since time only permitted nine questions to be asked, the remainder of them were promised to be delivered to

Swygert to be answered at a later date. With \$261 million donated to the school, including \$1 million given for medical school scholarships and \$4 million given from John H. Johnson Publications for the construction of a new School of Communications, the first question asked was what the university plans to do with the unrestricted money.

President Swygert

answered by explaining that some of the funds are pre-distributed. He also emphasized his desire to see more need-based and merit-based scholarships for students.

The lack of a dean for the Divinity School was addressed, saying a fourth candidate is set to visit the campus shortly. President Swygert is confident in this candidate.

Because of the shootings on the campus of Virginia Tech's campus yesterday, Swygert said mandatory student identification checks will be enforced upon entrance to dormitories. He added that Campus police will be more visible and there will be more Metropolitan Police officers present on campus.

The last question addressed the lack of a pharmaceutical facility. President Swygert handed the answer over to Franklin Chambers, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, who said that the university is currently negotiating with a private pharmacy company to bring a pharmacy back to Howard.

Though there are many issues that Cory Scott believes the university and the President need to address, Scott, a senior history and political science double major said, "Students have to get involved with answering questions."

## Student Stress Levels Peak During Final Exam Periods

BY NICOLE L. PHILLIPS  
Contributing Writer

As classes come to an end, the inevitable final exam period is quickly approaching. From vital research papers to final exams affecting the direction of final grades, students may find themselves in elevated states of stress.

A student's level of stress and how they react to it may have the possibility of hindering their success during finals.

"I have finals in Law, Multicultural Media History, and Economics," said junior broadcast journalism major Patrice Falkner. "I [also] have major projects due in Broadcast Journalism and Intermediate Photography."

With the average student taking at least five courses, the finals period can last as long as three weeks.

In some cases, students have the pressure of completing a research assignment or project, instead of a final exam.

"I would prefer a paper because you have time to actu-

ally sit down and think about what you want to say," Falkner said. "When you have an exam you are stressed because it's timed and it's [usually] a cumulative of the semester."

Like Falkner, many students prefer the convenience of having several weeks to complete a large research assignment or project. Other students still prefer the traditional final exam.

Junior nursing major Nicole Durant said, "I would prefer to just take a test and get it over with. Papers and projects are time consuming and stressful."

For many students, stress is caused by self-acquired pressures, or pressure from parents, to perform.

"In all of my classes, finals are worth at least 30 percent so I know I must get a good grade in order to keep my final grade high," Durant said.

During the finals period students can be found walking in trance-like states due to the effects of elevated levels of caffeine, lack of sleep and around the clock studying.

All of this, with the pres-

sure to perform, has proven to be too much for many students.

"I get really stressed during finals, there is always so much to do and so little time," Durant said.

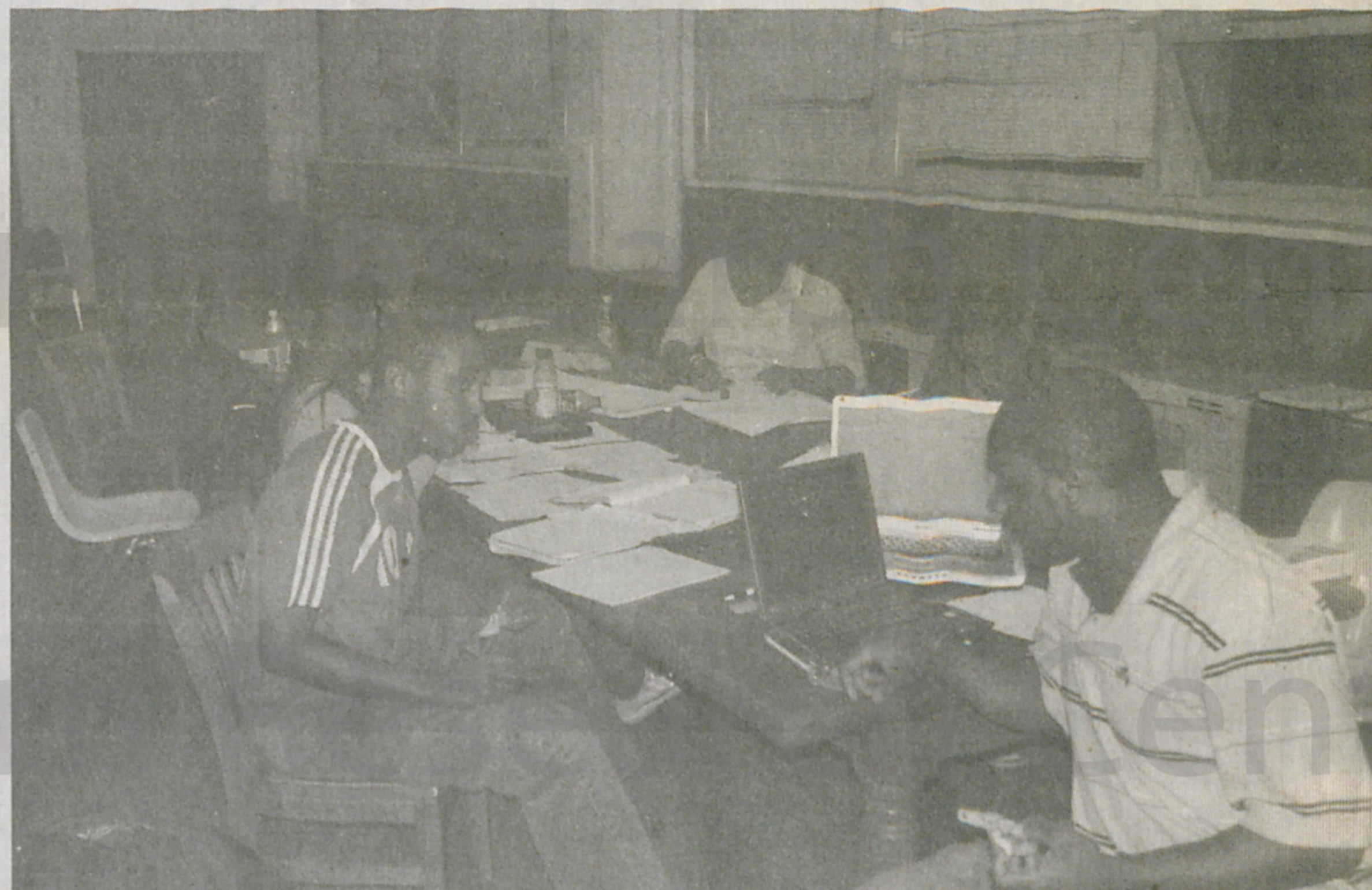
While professors, psychologists, and faculty agree that the finals period can be tough on students, most agree that students bring unnecessary pressure to themselves.

"Students need to effectively use the time they have because by having so many things to do at the last minute, you can get overwhelmed," said Professor Peng Yu.

Faculty advised that procrastination should be avoided at all costs. Students are urged to start studying for final exams weeks in advance to avoid the unnecessary build up of work that comes at the end of the semester.

"Students must study for finals early and one by one," Yu said.

Students' solutions to limiting stress offer more of a creative outlet. Short naps, coffee-house breaks, and soothing music are all ways students



Dereck Smith - Senior Photo Editor

Students are advised to study for final exams in advance to maximize time for relaxing.

use to remain calm.

"The only thing that keeps me sane is listening to music," Falkner said.

Another possibility students use to keep calm is to change their surroundings. Experts urge to prevent studying in any one place for hours

on end to avoid "cabin fever" symptoms and fatigue.

"[Students] need to move around to avoid fatigue because as fatigue sets in, it will only make you study inefficiently," Yu said.

Finally, last-resort methods of avoiding stress should

be avoided at all costs.

At no time should drugs, prescription or otherwise, be taken to stay awake or enhance your performance, as many of these drugs can be habit-forming. So, study early, get away, and above all, relax.

## Anthony 'Ice The Villain' Poole Outlines Musical Inspiration

BY NICOLE L. PHILLIPS  
Contributing Writer

Rapping has become a common interest and hobby on Howard's campus, but for sophomore audio production major, Anthony Poole, it is his passion. It is something he refuses live without, which is music. "I need music, a beat, a song, or some type of rhythm in my life," Poole said.

Poole started rapping in the fifth grade and saw it as something fun to do.

He recalls his first rap about his friend's smelly feet to Missy Elliott's, "I can't stand the rain" beat. He started to take his hobby more seriously later on after the support and encouragement of his older brother.

Poole, known as Ice the Villain to many, credits his musical inspirations in life to situations and subjects which interest him. Music serves as a therapeutic stress reliever for Poole. He is most passionate about honest self-expression.

"People aren't really living about what they're talking or rapping about," Poole said. This is why he centers his music on reality.

Poole has written some R&B and rap songs for various up and coming artists, but he aspires to eventually own an independent label.

"There aren't enough black people owning independent labels," Poole said.

He is a part of Taping Your Mouth Entertainment which was started by his producer LCD. They have a mix tape coming out later this month called "Target Practice."

Ice is also an on-air personality for Howard's WHBC Channel 51 on The Battle Ground and holds the position of music director. He is inspired by artists such as Joe Budden,

Lil' Wayne, T.I., Jay-Z, Royce Da 5'9" and people around him like his label mates LCD and Chainz. He enjoys all types of music ranging from reggae, calypso and rock to jazz and of course hip-hop.

He is a sophomore audio production major from Prince George's County. Poole always knew he wanted to be a Bison.

"If I wasn't at Howard, I would be grinding, still doing music, and in the studio all day everyday perfecting my craft," Poole said.

"I wish there were more hours in the day," Poole added.

Poole plans to use his audio production degree as a stepping stool to get him more involved with radio. After graduation, Poole hopes to get a job as an on-air personality at a local radio station and move higher in the ranks to hopefully

become a music director or programming director for a radio station.

For now, he enjoys being himself, which he describes as humble, comfortable and confident.

"I'm your favorite rappers all rolled up in one," Poole said.

Poole feels that he measures up pretty well up against other rappers in his genre.

"My swag makes people want to listen," he said.

He wouldn't describe himself as a gangster or hard core. He believes real people don't lie in their music. Poole simply tries to rap about what others can relate to, without fabricating the story.

Poole has a selection of songs on his MySpace page, www.myspace.com/ice935, including one of his favorite songs he's written, "NyQuil." "I am," is also one of his per-

sonal favorites. It an original flow without a hook to Outkast's "Liberation" beat.

Poole has an unusual character which he credits to his surroundings.

"If I could be any animal, I would be a white tiger because they're rare and unusual."

Poole feels passionate about his craft and hip-hop in general. He hopes to one day move people the way many artists have done for him.

"In this game of mediocre artists making effortless club bangers and lack luster love songs, it's rare to still find artist that still possess that drive to go against the grain and display, lyricism, creativity and hunger-all the while keeping their work relevant enough for people to get in touch with," Poole said.

"I need music, a beat, a song, or some type of rhythm in my life."

- Anthony Poole, '09



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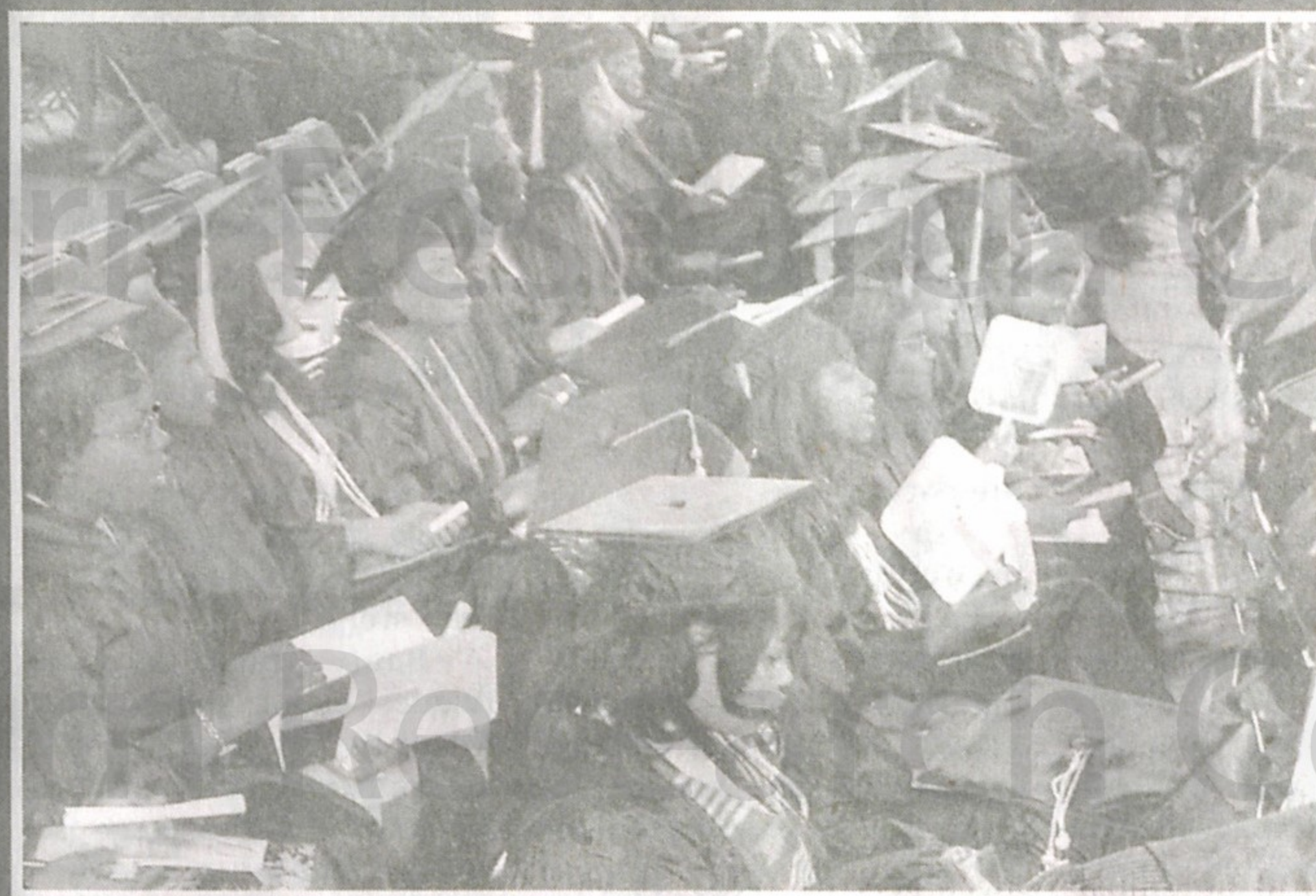
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# Communting Taking Its Toll

BY CHRISTIA RAVENELL  
Contributing Writer

The music on the radio pales in comparison to the drone of car horns and rumbling motors. The driver's foot plays hopscotch with the gas and brake pedals as traffic slowly moves on. Tired and weary, it may be the morning or evening but the picture remains the same. More and more people in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area are commuting, and the car and the road can create havoc on the body.

The Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University said in 2003 alone 191,000 commuters were from the District while 473,113 commuters traveled from states like Maryland and Virginia into the District. Census Bureau figures report the District is second only to New York in commuters.

Senior classical civilization major Fawn Robinson commutes from Baltimore to Howard everyday and knows all about the hectic strain that commuting can put on life. She leaves her house at 7:30 a.m. to make her 9 a.m. class and must depart right after her 3 p.m. class to avoid traffic and be home by 4:30 p.m.

"It's really a burden living so far away from campus, and Howard is not a commuter school, so the professors take for granted that all Howard students live on or near campus. For instance, when it snows and the streets in Baltimore are covered, but the streets in D.C. are clear, what am I supposed to do?" Robinson said.

Unable to participate in campus life, Robinson does not have time to converse with classmates, attend events or wait around after class to attend seminars or study groups.

Kwame Ballantyne, a senior business marketing major, has the same dilemma with his commute from Landover, Md., a 45-minute drive in steady traffic. He leaves his house at 8 a.m. and leaves Howard at 5 p.m. Those familiar with traffic know that those are the prime hours to travel at 30 miles an hour



File Photo

As millions of people commute to and from their jobs each day, many will notice the physical strain consistently long travel puts on the body as they grow older.

starting and stopping for an hour at a time.

Ballantyne finds it tiring but easy to adapt to, but misses the camaraderie that was there when he lived on campus. He continues to work on campus but longs for the downtime he used to have with friends.

Both Robinson and Ballantyne say they have not experienced any pain that has developed from their long commutes, but commuting researchers from around the country agree that commuting can cause serious problems that will not develop until drivers reach their 50s.

Longer commutes have greater strains on the body. Those with long commutes have been found to have higher blood pressure, get sick more often and have more headaches and chest pain. They are more likely to become frustrated at work and have negative moods at home.

Tendonitis, leg shints or shooting leg pain and back and neck pain are only a few of the other ailments that can occur. Commuting does not only apply to car rides. Those who carpool as well as those

who ride the bus or metro can also experience issues because the lengthy time spent sitting can cause muscles to tighten, joints to stiffen and circulation to become hampered.

Commuters have less time to spend with their families and friends. They are unable to find as much time to eat

healthy and go to the gym.

Most commuters ride by themselves and have long periods where they are stagnant or are on their cell phone. Road rage due to the long time spent on the road and hectic work life can all create problems for commuters.

## Tips to Combat Long Commutes

The Baltimore-based Health Quest Chiropractic & Physical Therapy suggests the following tips for dealing with commuting.

- **Stretching:** One should prepare for a period of sitting in the same way that one would for a workout at the gym. Warm up first. Hamstring and calf stretches, neck rolls and change position while sitting.

- **Posture:** A slumped posture can put strain on the normal curves of the spine, forcing the vertebrae out of alignment and/or putting pressure on the

nerves and muscles of both the neck and back. This will keep the body from cramping up, avoiding chronic lower back and neck pain, plus improve blood flow to the entire body – including your brain.

- **Support:** If one has trouble maintaining proper posture while standing or sitting for long periods of time, very affordable support options are available to help.

- **Lumbar Support Cushions**
- **Back Braces**
- **Corrective Support** such as chiropractic care.

## New 'Unique' Party Place Called The Space

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Once a horse carriage house and a car repair shop, the 100 year old space at 903 N St. is now home to The Space, a new contemporary spot with an industrial feel.

Karen Cox, one of the three owners of The Space, stumbled upon the then vacant building and believed it was an opportunity to buy the old car garage. "I promised him I would keep it as original as possible," she says of the deal made with the previous owner. "I wasn't going to do anything to change it. I wanted to keep the history here. I wanted to keep his history here. We just wanted to keep it really original to the Shaw area and not change it. That's what we've basically done."

Cox, along with her husband Mitchell and their friend Jodi Silis make up International Lifestyles, a group dedicated to providing unique spaces for entertainment purposes.

Renovation, Karen and Silis say, was the hardest part of getting The Space running.

"Basically turning it from a space that wasn't meant for people to relax and mingle," Silis said.

Now that it has been renovated, Karen said, "Running it is no challenge. It's easy and it's fun."

The Space features a full AV system with two projectors that can be put anywhere and can show DVDs and PowerPoint slideshows. It also has a full sound system upstairs and downstairs.

A Viking range stainless steel kitchen is located in the back of the downstairs area, complete with a double deck dishwasher, a refrigerator and an oven for guests to host a chef or simply create a bar area.

Upstairs is the VIP room decorated with a terrace which is still under

construction.

The open space downstairs is furnished with five rectangular shaped couches. Two large white pillows rest on the couches next to two smaller black pillows.

In front of each couch are silver antique trays. A clear table is situated in the corner with white and red flowers in a vase. Incense also sits on the table, burning slowly and filling the air with its light scent.

International Lifestyles hopes to transform The Space into a place where local residents can gather, mix and mingle while listening to a jazz band or local musicians.

The owners want to make The Space a place for the arts, featuring local musicians, local entertainment and independent movies.

"We want a lounge rather than a night club," Silis says. "We keep evolving. Everyday we think of new things we want to do with it."

The Space, open for private parties, corporations and weddings, caters to ages 15 to 80.

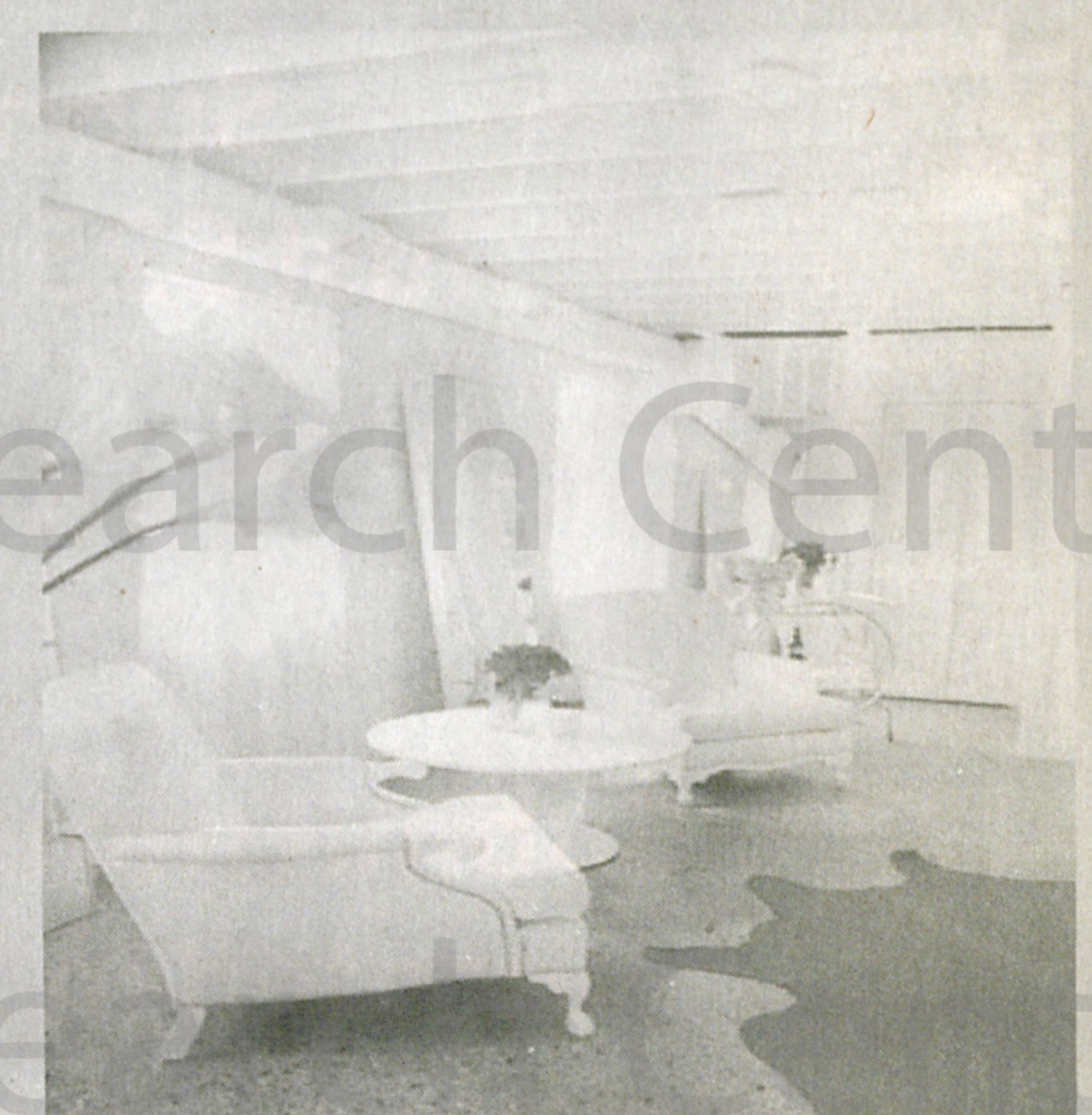
The cost of renting the venue varies depending on the day, time and event to be held. Prices range from \$1,500 to \$4,000.

The Space does not have regular business hours. Instead it is only open for the special events held.

"This is really the first truly raw space that you can come in and transform the way that you want it. It also has a very urban New York sort of feel and that's hard to find around here," Silis said.

"I think that's what people are attracted to. They want something different. They don't want the same D.C. look."

For more information on upcoming events held at the space or for booking information, contact Silis at 202-341-3340 or visit the Web site at [www.international-lifestyles.com](http://www.international-lifestyles.com).



Photos courtesy of international-lifestyles.com

What used to be a garage is now "The Space," a "unique place for entertainment purposes."

## Oromo Students Hold Rally On Mall

BY BRITNEY BLACK  
Contributing Writer

While the eyes of America are focused on the war in Iraq, thousands of Oromo people are trying to survive a different type of war in Africa, a war where innocent people are being murdered simply because of their nationality.

This is the message that the Oromo Youth Association wanted to convey to the U.S. government during their rally in Washington, D.C. on March 31.

The rally, which began at 11 a.m., started in front of the U.S. State Department and ended in front of the U.S. Capitol at 2 p.m. The protest gathered more than 500 supporters, including those who

are not Oromo.

The Youth Association participants used several different ways to get their message across, such as painting their clothing to depict bloody wounds and walking in lines with ropes tied around their necks. Looking out at the rally, one could glimpse a small part of Oromo culture within the colorful sea of reds, yellows, greens and whites.

"Our aim was different from other marches done by the organization," Gelane Gemechisa, one of the organization's board members, said. "We were not trying to get Congress to read a letter. We were not trying to get the state department to read a list of our issues. We wanted the

media attention. We wanted people to ask, 'Who are the Oromo people [and] what is their story?'"

Bontu Itana, a junior finance major and a member of the organization, said, "The official mission of Youth Association is to engage in a multifaceted struggle to bring freedom, justice, equality and development to the Oromo people of East Africa."

Itana continued, "The Youth Association also works to alleviate the economic, social and human rights deprivations of the Oromo nation at no cost to any other nation or country."

The Oromo Youth Association was founded in 2006 as a response to the ethnic cleansing being done by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLC) in Ethiopia.

The TPLC has now combined with the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Somalia. Together, these two governments are systematically killing the Oromo people in Ethiopia, Somalia and other neighboring countries.

Due to a lack of media attention and unresponsiveness from international governments, such as the United States, the Oromo people have been forced to fight their

battle alone.

"The really sad thing is that hundreds of refugees fled to Somali refugee camps to escape persecution, just to discover that soldiers were killing Oromo citizens there also," Itana said.

There seems to be no safe place for the Oromo people to go when even the world's most powerful nation turns a blind eye.

"There has been a history of brutalization in an attempt to maintain the Oromo land," Gemechisa said.

Even though the Oromo people make up about 50 percent of Ethiopia's population, they are the most marginalized group, Gemechisa said.

"The goal of the rally was to gain media attention and to let the whole world know that everyone in Ethiopia does not support the war," Itana said. "The Oromo people do not support the war. [They] are dying because of it."

Itana added, "The youth effort that we have is pushing to give a voice to the voiceless. The Oromo people have been suffering for hundreds of years and their plight is still unknown."

Gemechisa said, "It is my dream that more youth become involved in the struggle. Youth have always been the driving force of revolution. The Oromo problem is far from over. Now it is time for this generation to do its part. We need you."

The next rally will be July 26 in Minneapolis, the home of more than 15,000 Oromo people.



Photo courtesy of Bontu Itana

The International Oromo Youth Association (IOYA) held a rally on March 31 protesting the killing of Oromo people in Africa.



## The 2007 Mary Rhodes Hoover Culturally Appropriate Teaching Conference (CAT)

Date: April 19th-20th, 2007

Location: Blackburn Center, Howard University.

The 2007 Mary Rhodes Hoover Culturally Appropriate Teaching Conference (CAT) will be held April 19th-20th, 2007 in the Blackburn Center at Howard University. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for exchanging ideas, sharing best practices, and engaging in thought provoking conversations about teaching, diversity, and urban education.

Registration for the conference is free and can be completed using the on-line form found on the School of Education's Web page at <http://www.howard.edu/schooleducation/>.

This year, a Career Fair is being held in conjunction with the conference on April 20, from 3:00-6:00 pm in the Blackburn Center. Organizations interested in recruiting students from the School of Education at Howard University are invited to register via e-mail, fax or mail. Career Fair registration requires a \$50 registration fee. See details by logging on to <http://www.howard.edu/schooleducation/CAT/home.html>.

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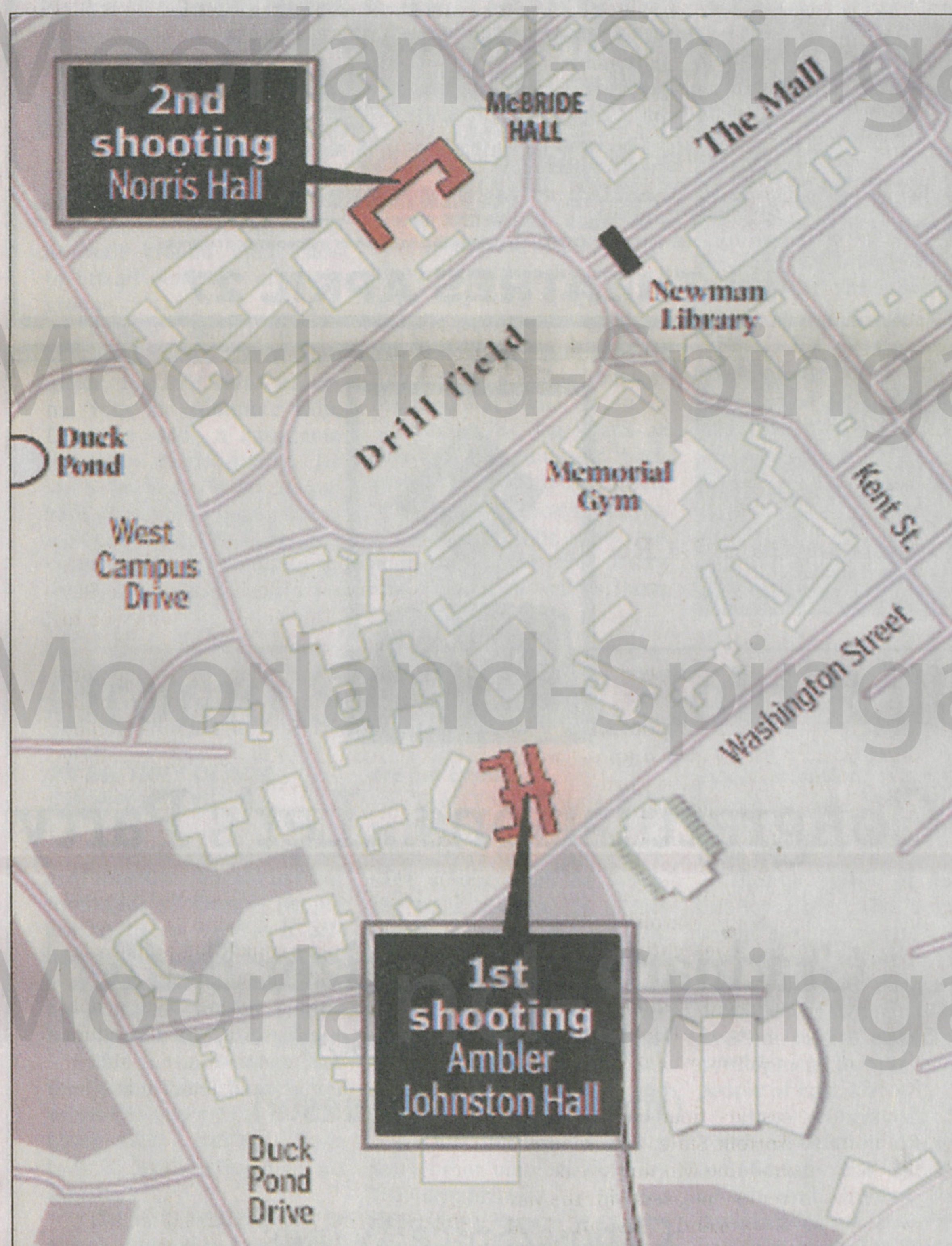
**CHICKEN OUT ROTISSERIE**  
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(Above) Dean Bernard Richardson mourns the victims of an unidentified shooter at Virginia Tech at a vigil held on campus by Rankin Chapel and President H. Patrick Swygert.

(Below) A map shows the two morning shooting locations on Virginia Tech's campus.



VTECH, from Page 1

On Monday morning, an unidentified man wearing a black leather jacket and a maroon hat walked into West Ambler Johnston Hall on Virginia Tech's campus, according to ABC7 News. He went on to shoot and kill two people in the building before murdering 30 others, and wounding an additional 15, hours later in classrooms in Norris Hall—a half mile across Virginia Tech's campus. Virginia Tech has scheduled counseling in the athletic building and a convocation service is set to begin at 2 p.m. in the Castle Coliseum this afternoon.

This incident is being called the worst mass shooting in United States history and preceded the anniversary of the Columbine shootings in Littleton, Colo. by only four days.

Jennifer Owens, HUSA president, offered words of appreciation to the members of the Howard family who were in attendance at the vigil, despite the weather. Owens urged those gathered to remain supportive and said she had been in touch with student body presidents on other campuses who have been very supportive. Additional speakers at yesterday's vigil included, The Rev. Bernard

Richardson, dean of the Andrew Rankin Chapel and President Swygert, who advised students to use the university's resources to do whatever it takes to vent about the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Following Swygert's address, Dean Richardson told students he would have to alter his style of addressing the audience for this occasion. Prior to the benediction, Richardson asked the audience to form small clusters near the flag post in order to pray for the victims and their families.

Michelle Wilson, a junior biology major said, "I feel that our campus is united and right now all we can do is pray. We also need to pray for the family of the killer—they are probably wondering 'why?'"

Mike Harrison, a sports medicine major said, "This is life and we have to deal with life as it is. We're not exempt from what will happen in life."

Harrison continued saying, "This tragedy reminds us that we're still in the real world. People forget that stuff happens like this."

Monday's shootings on the Virginia Tech campus prompted President Swygert to say Howard's policy of students showing identification as they enter residence halls will be strictly enforced. Swygert stressed the

importance of mental health of parents and members of the Howard community both on and off campus.

"I want people to understand that safety is very important," Swygert said. He added that there would be more campus police and they will be more visible on campus. There will also be an increase in the presence of the Metropolitan Police Department on campus.

Ive Pierce, a freshman psychology major offered her advice concerning unstable students. She said, "You should pay attention to warning signs. When people confide in you—because you never how big or small the problem really is."

Pierce continued, "What they tell you could only be the surface issue. Watch the way you respond to people—what isn't a big deal to you may be a big deal to someone else. It could be the thing that breaks the camel's back."

Burton said she wanted to be in the presence of like minded individuals during the vigil following the shootings.

"You realize life is a gift, you have one of those epiphanies. Things like that can happen at Howard. It just makes me think that I'm lucky to be alive; to be going to school. It just shows to never take life for granted," Burton said.

BLACKSBURG VA.- Josh Ball didn't think anything was wrong when he left his fourth floor room of West Ambler Johnston Hall.

"A police officer wouldn't let me use the elevator, so I just took the stairs," he said.

It was only after Ball saw a blood stained stretcher outside of the dormitory that he knew something terrible had happened.

"I keep wondering what if," the Tech junior said. "What would've happened if I would have gotten up to take a shower, or did something different. I could've been thrown into it."

Only the howling winds could be heard across the university as students and faculty members huddled in corners

trying to determine why the worst mass shooting in U.S. history happened on their campus.

Thirty-three people were dead and more were injured following Monday's shooting.

"We aren't angry," said Virginia Tech alum Sanda Chelliah. "People are just confused. We want this to be clarified. We want to know what happened."

Tech junior Nick Boyer said students were angry that they received a canceled class notification more than two hours after the first shooting.

"I was on my way to class and I just happened to check my e-mail," Boyer said. "We should've known. Someone should have said something besides an e-mail."

Boyer said one of his friends was shot in the back during the attack and required surgery to remove her kidney.

"We're all just in shock," Boyer said. "Everyone is praying. We just can't believe this happened."

Virginia Tech professor Steve York said he was walking in front of the Norris Building only minutes before the shooting took place.

"I had no clue that there was a gunman," York said. "It's inexcusable. There shouldn't have been anyone in class. All those kids died for no reason. They should have been more important."

-Special to The Hilltop



Photo courtesy of www.roanoke.com

## A Chronicle of the Carnage at Virginia Tech

7:15 a.m.

Virginia Tech police receive a 911 call about a shooting at West Ambler Johnston hall. Within minutes, police arrive and shut down the residence hall as they investigate. A man and woman are found dead on the scene.

7:30 a.m.

Investigators follow a lead on a male suspect, but make no arrests. Classes are not canceled, as the police believe this to be an isolated incident that is possibly "domestic."

9:26 a.m.

An e-mail notifies the Virginia Tech community about the ongoing homicide investigation.

9:45 a.m.

Virginia Tech police receive a second 911 call. The police arrive to a second shooting scene at Norris Hall; however, the front doors are chained shut. They break into the building, pursue gunshot sounds and find the gunman dead on second floor.

9:55 a.m.

Classes are canceled for the day as the police investigate the scene, and tend those shot.

Source: CNN



# Senior Represents Both College and Country

## HU Soccer Player Features for Jamaican Under-20 National Team

BY MEGHAN NICK  
Contributing Writer

Howard University freshman soccer player Joel Senior represented Jamaica as a member of the Under-20 national team as they fought to qualify for the final round of The Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Tournament. The tournament is the second longest running international event in the region.

Noted for his exceptional technical ability and speed in Howard University's midfield, Senior used his skill to represent both Jamaica and Howard on the international stage. Senior displayed his athletic prowess throughout the 2006 season, garnering the support of teammates, fans, opponents and the coaching staff.

At the close of the Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC) season, Senior was awarded with the 2006 Rookie of the Year Award. He also received ASC first team honors.

Senior collected two goals and two assists in the 16 games he played for the Bison. Haribo Kamara-Taylor, captain of the Howard University men's soccer team characterized Senior as, "An exciting, gifted young soccer player with huge potential to go far in soccer."

Senior traveled to Mexico where he trained and played under the coaching of Dean Weatherly from Feb. 19-26, 2007.

"We lost to Mexico 2-0, Costa Rica 2-0, and tied St. Kitts 1-1," Senior said.



Photo courtesy of All Pro Photo

Joel Senior balances dual practice schedules with a strenuous courseload at Howard. Senior is gaining experience playing on the international level.

He now has eight international appearances for the Reggae Boyz, the Jamaican National Team.

When asked what the biggest difference is between collegiate and

international play Senior said, "The expected level of performance and focus is higher."

Like the rest of the Reggae Boyz, Senior was disheartened by the

team's lackluster performance.

"We were expected to qualify for the World Cup with Mexico, but failed to do so," Senior said.

Senior cited his first international match against Trinidad and Tobago as his most memorable experience as an international player. It was during this game that Senior had one of the most meaningful moments of his career. He recounted how he swelled with pride as he stood on the field with the Jamaican national anthem playing in the background as he looked out over the crowd of fans.

"I felt very proud of my accomplishment. I was moved," he said.

Senior said that moment stood still in time and that feeling will never be forgotten.

Although he has not scored an international goal, Senior said, "I have been noticed by the public as the backbone of the team." He believes that despite what the fans may think, he contributed to the overall morale of the team.

"I believe that my work ethic and overall vibe helped with a few of the players," Senior said.

A close friend and fellow Bison teammate Lemuel Lyons, who hails from Trinidad and Tobago, although disappointed with the score line favoring Jamaica, felt nothing short of pride seeing his friend play on the international stage.

Senior has managed to balance soccer and school despite his strenuous training schedule for both the Jamaican national team and Howard University's soccer team. He attri-

## SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

### SCORES

None

### UPCOMING GAMES

Women's and Men's Tennis  
@ MEAC Championships  
Raleigh, N.C., April 20-22

butes his scholastic success to keeping in contact with professors and doing exactly what his professors require of him.

While the Bison have yet to receive a new coach after the loss of Keith Tucker who coached the men's soccer team for 25 years, the team has diligently been practicing under the supervision of Kamara-Taylor and working in the weight room in preparation for the upcoming season.

Although Senior has been able to achieve success on the international stage, he hopes to garner the same success with his teammates at Howard. When asked why he chose to attend Howard, Senior said, "I believed that I could make a difference."

As he continues his tenure here at Howard, he hopes to develop strong leadership skills. Senior looks to the 2007 season with the hope that the program will be coached by someone who will turn the team around and put them in a winning situation.



## Team 1867: 2007 Intramural Basketball Champions

*The Hilltop was able to gain an inside look at the history-making Howard national intramural basketball champions' weekend in Columbus, Ohio.*



### TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On April 17, 1997, Martin Brodeur of the New Jersey Devils became the second goaltender ever to score a goal during the NHL playoffs.

## Bison Sports Shorts



### Softball Posts 4-1 Record in Weekend Roundup

The Howard Softball team won four of its five games over the weekend in the MEAC Roundup in Lexington, S.C.

The Lady Bison opened up the weekend with a 9-5 victory over North Carolina A&T on Friday. Howard overcame an early 2-0 deficit on its way to the win.

The Lady Bison faced a similar circumstance in game two of the Roundup, falling behind South Carolina State 3-0 before scoring 11 consecutive runs in an 11-3 victory.

Howard defeated Bethune-Cookman 8-7 and Florida A&M 9-1, giving the Lady Bison their first-ever win over the Lady Rattlers.

Howard lost its final contest of the Roundup to Norfolk State, 4-2, snapping the team's eight-game winning streak.

"I am extremely pleased with the way we played all weekend," Howard head coach Tonja Braxton told www.howard-bison.com. "There were times when we had to come from behind. The team now believes that it is supposed to come from behind and win in tight games."

Howard's next game is on the road on Thursday against Hampton, who is undefeated in MEAC play. The Lady Bison will return home on Saturday to face Morgan State in a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m.

### Two Howard Runners Qualify for NCAA Regionals

Lauren McNary and Daniel Kinney will both represent Howard at the 2007 NCAA Regional Outdoor Track and Field championships in Gainesville, Fla. May 25-26. McNary, a junior from Tarpon

Springs, Fla., ran a time of 54.45 seconds in the 400-meter dash at the Sea Ray Relays at the University of Tennessee to qualify for Regionals.

Meanwhile, Kinney, a sophomore from Romulus, Mich., will compete in the 400-meter hurdles after running a time of 52.36 seconds. Kinney had previously qualified for Regionals in the 110-meter hurdles at a different event.

Another contingent of the Howard men's and women's track team participated in the James Madison University Open in Harrisonburg, Va., where Joanel Lopez won the shot put competition and Jessica Neal won the 1500-meter dash.

"Basically, we are trying to get people to qualify for the NCAA Regionals and for the MEAC," head coach Michael Merritt said. "Hopefully, these meets will help us get to that level."

### Lacrosse Game Suspended Due to Rain

The Howard women's lacrosse game at Villanova University was called with 11:40 remaining in the second period with the score at 18-5 in favor of the Lady Wildcats.

Since 80 percent of the game had been completed, it will count as an official victory for Villanova.

The match was Howard's second in a span of three days. The Lady Bison responded from an initial 4-0 deficit to draw the score to 5-3. However, Villanova used a 7-0 run to stretch its lead to 12-4 at halftime.

Sakita Holley led Howard with four goals.

-Compiled by Elliott Jones, Sports Editor  
Information courtesy of  
www.howard-bison.com







## He Said

## She Said



## He's a Flirt

Let me start this installment off with an apology and a call for forgiveness because I'm definitely about to break a man law with this one.

Contrary to popular belief, making the first move on a young lady you are genuinely interested in is difficult—even scary at times.

Taking that first initiative to step to a girl can definitely be a nerve-wracking experience. Not knowing what her reaction is going to be—whether it's going to end in a phone number or in getting played to the left is a very unsettling and uneasy feeling.

Upon canvassing several male staffers of *The Hilltop*, I came to the conclusion that although the issue is more of a problem for some and less of a dilemma for others, it is still an issue.

It requires a guy to make himself vulnerable and put all his pride in the hands of a stranger. Not an easy task, to say the least.

We also discussed the

common misconception that guys are turned off by girls who are forward in their advances. Honestly, the whole thrill of the chase thing is overrated.

Not that we want everything handed to us, but a girl taking the bold step to express her interest in a guy is, by no means, a turn-off.

Just because a girl breaks the mold of what is "traditional" does not make her any less of a lady. As Andre 3000 said, "That just lets me know she know what she wants out of life."

And as observant as we think we think we are, we can easily overlook a seemingly obvious admirer. So if you're comfortable and bold enough, then you should step up ladies, and make that



Photo courtesy www.youtube.com

advance.

In a world where society is striving toward equality between the sexes, it is time for traditions to be re-examined and reevaluated.

"I'm a flirt. Soon as I see her walk up in the club, I'm a flirt."

Despite the fact that I care neither for this song, nor the artists, I think the 'épic bal-

lad' "I'm a flirt," sums up the current young, black stance towards courtship.

Other lyrics to the song include a discussion of "jewelry shinin'" and "28s" and phrases like "I got money and I'm a show it" and "I'm black, fresh and I rap, plus I'm rich."

Such things, which one can only assume the men in the song believe will attract women, highlight the priority problems in the dating pool.

How likely is it that there will be a song where the lyrics are "I'm a approach you respectfully," "Intellect shinin'," "I stay philosophizing," or "I got education and I'm a show it?"

Men talk about how much pressure there is in approaching women in search of romantic involvement, but perhaps this pressure is

something they have created through their misconceptions of what women are looking for.

My friends and I often discuss how the males we encounter have a habit of saying "I can't be what you need me to be." My question is, who ever told you what we wanted you all to be?

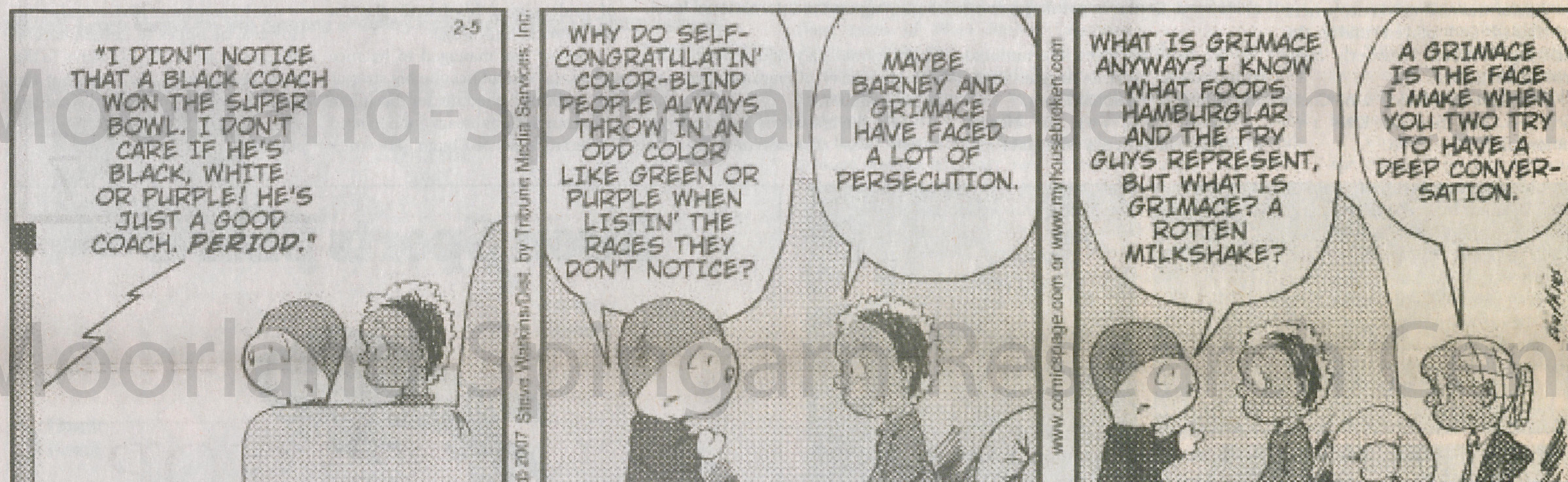
Because if all the women in the world got together and made a list of our ideal mates, "Must Have 28s" might not top the list. You may, however, find things like honesty, integrity, ambition, maturity and character.

So, next time Mr. Man finds himself going to flirt, he may want to consider being himself and displaying some of the qualities conducive to mature relationships and not just his worldly possessions (not to say you should be content being a bum).

Note: not all women want a "good guy," so this strategy may not work on them all. But do you really want the girl who wants to date the jerk?

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

## HOUSEBROKEN



## Word Search

T H S U I N E G E E R E V E L C  
H B R I G H T E I I C Y K G H T  
D A C U T E O F R N A T N C L S  
I N V E N T I V E S N F O E U V  
K E T E E U R N S T N A W O E D  
Z S P K G T P A O E Y R I D S I  
I T E A I S I S U I B C N E I S  
H N D W L A H E R N O I G T N C  
W A A A L Y N R C C G S A T G E  
A I L E E S B B E L E H A I E R  
W L E D T S R R F W T A G W N N  
A L R I N A P O U K D R I K I I  
R I T W I S E C L O E P L C O N  
E R N N I M B L E C E E E I U G  
A B Y D E D A E H G G E N U S L  
K S I R B D E C N A V D A Q I T

## Find the following:

Acute	Bright	Genius	witted
Adept	Brilliant	Ingenious	Resourceful
Advanced	Brisk	Intelligent	Sassy
Agile	Canny	Inventive	Sharp
Alert	Clever	Keen	Shrewd
Apt	Crafty	Knowing	Whiz kid
Astute	Discerning	Nimble	Wide-awake
Aware	Eggheaded	Precocious	Wise
Brainy	Einstein	Quick-	

Puzzle courtesy of www.free-online-word-search-puzzles.com

## Overheard @ The Mecca

Whose Affair Is It, Anyway?  
Overheard in The Towers

**Girl 1:** Guys are always saying "I wish circumstances could be different," like you can't change them and they're not something you get yourself into.

**Girl 2:** I know, like life is a big game of improv and your scene is given to you to play out.

**Girl 3:** I know, like God just said "You have a fiancée, a mistress, and a thing on the side. Go!"

The Luxury of Driving  
Overheard in the School of B in a Law Class

**Professor who is a lawyer:** What do the police need to search your car?

**Girl:** A warrant?

**PWIAL:** Nope.

**Guy:** Consent?

**PWIAL:** No, no. A flashlight.

Check out more at [Overheardatthamecca.blogspot.com](http://Overheardatthamecca.blogspot.com) and submit to [Overheardatthamecca@gmail.com](mailto:Overheardatthamecca@gmail.com)

Please send any responses to Meccanisms; 'He Said . . . She Said' topics, things you've Overheard @ The Mecca or any other contributions to [meccanisms@gmail.com](mailto:meccanisms@gmail.com)



# EDITORIALS & Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 123

APRIL 17, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



## Students Unite Despite Fatal Violence

Yesterday our nation and the world was reminded of the darkness of humanity and fragility of life. The tragedy will be remembered as the deadliest shooting in U.S. history.

On the campus of Virginia Tech University, 32 innocent people were killed and at least 15 more were injured at the hands of an unidentified gunman.

The gunman, whose rampage ended in taking his own life, had no form of identification and no clear motive for his actions according to local authorities.

This horrific incident would be a tragedy anywhere but should hold a special importance to us, at Howard, due to its close proximity. Virginia Tech is just down the road meaning we were just miles away from the devastation that took place. It is also important to note how connected we are outside of location. Students at Howard may have come from the same communities and may also have friends, family and loved ones who were more closely

tation that took place. It is also important to note how connected we are outside of location. Students at Howard may have come from the same communities and may also have friends, family and loved ones who were more closely

**Our View:**  
*We extend our deepest condolences to all who were lost and to those who were affected by this tragedy.*

affected.

In fact, one *Hilltop* staffer has a sister who attends Virginia Tech. We must remember these ties and utilize them. In their time of mourning, devastation, anger and confusion, we should be there for our peers; we should make ourselves available to be shoulders to cry on or figures

of hope.

In light of this incident schools around the nation should take this opportunity to make themselves more prepared for the unexpected. But how do you prepare for the unexpected? We, at *The Hilltop*, believe

that all universities should develop measures and policies for emergencies. Although it is impossible to be prepared for any and all emergencies schools can at least establish

modes of communication and plans of action for general emergencies. Also, students should charge themselves to become knowledgeable about the emergency policies.

We should all remember how close we were to this catastrophe and how much a kind word can do for someone in mourning.

## Perspective: Don Imus Is a Distraction

Let us not lose focus. The faculty senate is engaged in a truly historic struggle to assert itself in the face of the

Swygert's strongman style. Don Imus and his nonsense are not as much a threat to our self-esteem as is Swygert's

disrespect of the faculty.

- Ian Isidore Smart

## Perspective: In Remembrance of an Icon

On Saturday, April 7, 2007 one of the most inspirational people I've ever met, lost his battle with cancer. Dr. Robert J. Cummings served the Howard University community for almost three decades.

Known for his infinite wisdom, generosity, kindness, compassion and dedication to issues affecting people of the African Diaspora, Dr. Cummings was a mentor to thousands of students throughout his career. As the

Chairman of the oldest and world renown African Studies department here at Howard University, Dr. Cummings was always at the forefront of ground breaking social, political and economic epistemological frameworks.

Dr. Cummings was truly a revolutionary and anyone who had the honor of being in his presence, was divinely favored.

Although Dr. Cummings is no longer with us, I know I speak for my colleagues and

friends when I say, my life has been enormously enriched as a result of knowing him.

All condolences to his family are being collected at the African Studies department located on the fourth floor of the Howard Center. A memorial service will be held Friday, April 13, 2007 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Rankin Memorial Chapel on the main campus.

- Imani M. Cheers

**Read The Hilltop ONLINE**

**WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM**

## Daily Sudoku

**Directions:** Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

1		6	3	8				
	5		2				1	
	2				4			3
			4	9			7	
	1	9				4	8	
	4			2	6			
8			9				5	
	9			7			4	
			1	8	2			7

No more Hilltop budget meetings...  
**But lookout for Hilltop Staff Applications...Coming Soon...**

## THE HILLTOP

*The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper*

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Now in its 83rd year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

*The Hilltop* reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



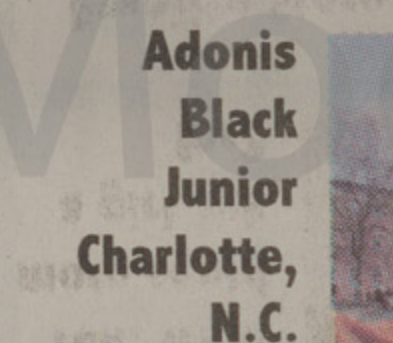
## Spring Has Sprung: Fashion on The Yard



**Morgan Thomas**  
Freshman  
Mitchellville, Md.

**What we love?**  
The Earth tones!

**Favorite Store:** Forever 21  
"I like natural earth tones so anything with greens and browns and oranges, and I like bright colors too. So for the spring time, I take earth tones to a springy level."



**Adonis Black**  
Junior  
Charlotte, N.C.

**What we love?**  
Everything! from the layering to the colors.



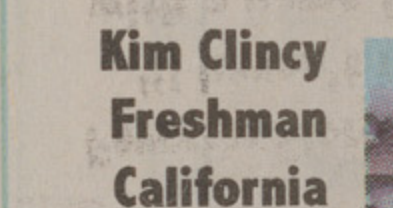
**Favorite Store:** Urban Outfitters  
"I haven't really come up with a name for my style yet. It just goes with whatever I go with sometimes it's old school, sometimes it's new school"



**Tela**  
Prospective Student  
Atlanta, Ga.

**What we love?**  
The kicks! His purple Nike dunks are a perfect purple match with the jacket and shirt.

**Favorite Store:** American Apparel, H&M  
"I like to put on any color I see and mix and match a lot of different colors."



**Kim Clincy**  
Freshman  
California

**Why we love it?**  
One word: GLAMOUR! Lace, leopard, and red. What more could a girl ask for?



**Favorite Store:** Arden B  
"I love Arden B because of the large selection!"



**Ndi Amadi**  
Senior  
Political Science  
California

**Why we love it?**  
It's simple yet sassy. A very simple look, but little things like nail polish and beaded accessories add life to the look. Did we mention that her eye shadow matches her clothing?

**Favorite Stores:** M.A.C, thrift stores, Forever 21  
"I'm from California and I'm Nigerian so I just like to fuse the two. I just like to have bright colors and trendy stuff and ethnic looking clothes. That's what inspires me"

-Compiled by  
Jessica Littles

# Students Debate Basis of Hip-Hop Music

BY SIMONE WALLS  
Contributing Writer

Rap music is impossible to escape. It is all around, featured in television, commercials, movies, radio and the Internet. Rap music has a profound impact on society.

Last year, the nation was "walking it out," doing the motorcycle and ballin' with Jim Jones. However, with the release of Nas' "Hip-hop is Dead," criticism about rap being too saturated with commercial artists has come to the forefront, some believe the genre is slowly dying.

Rap has gone through many changes since its beginning in the South Bronx during the 1970s. Hip-hop began as more than just music. It was a combination of style, rapping, DJing, break dancing and graffiti art. The old school hip-hop era lasted from 1970 to 1985 when it made its way into the mainstream.

The so-called Golden Age hip-hop era spanned from 1985 to 1993, which carried into the gangsta rap era and then the hard core, underground hip-hop era, characterized by bling, thus defining modern hip-hop.

Artist such as Kool Moe

Dee, Big Daddy Kane, Rakim, Public Enemy, Sugar Hill Gang, KRS-One, Run DMC and DJ Grandmaster Flash were deemed as some of the fathers and originators of rap or hip-hop.

The late 1990s portrayed a more lavish lifestyle of rap artists. Artists focused heavily on symbols of wealth such as money, cars, jewelry and expensive clothing.

"It's very easy for someone to become a rapper," said junior political science major Jasmin-Brown Johnson. "It's evident with songs put out with no substance and meaning, such as songs like 'Laffy Taffy,' 'Chicken Noodle Soup' and 'Lip Gloss.' They are as simple as nursery rhymes."

Many say hip-hop has lost its true, original message.

"Hip-hop has become a launching pad to show off how many women you have and how much money you have," said Sean Plater, the general manager for Howard's WHBC Channel 51 radio station.

He says he would like to see more socially conscious rappers come to the forefront.

Some believe hip-hop is simply an over-representation of the criminal aspects of black youth and culture, perceived

in music videos and albums. Not all black youth are selling drugs or constantly killing their people.

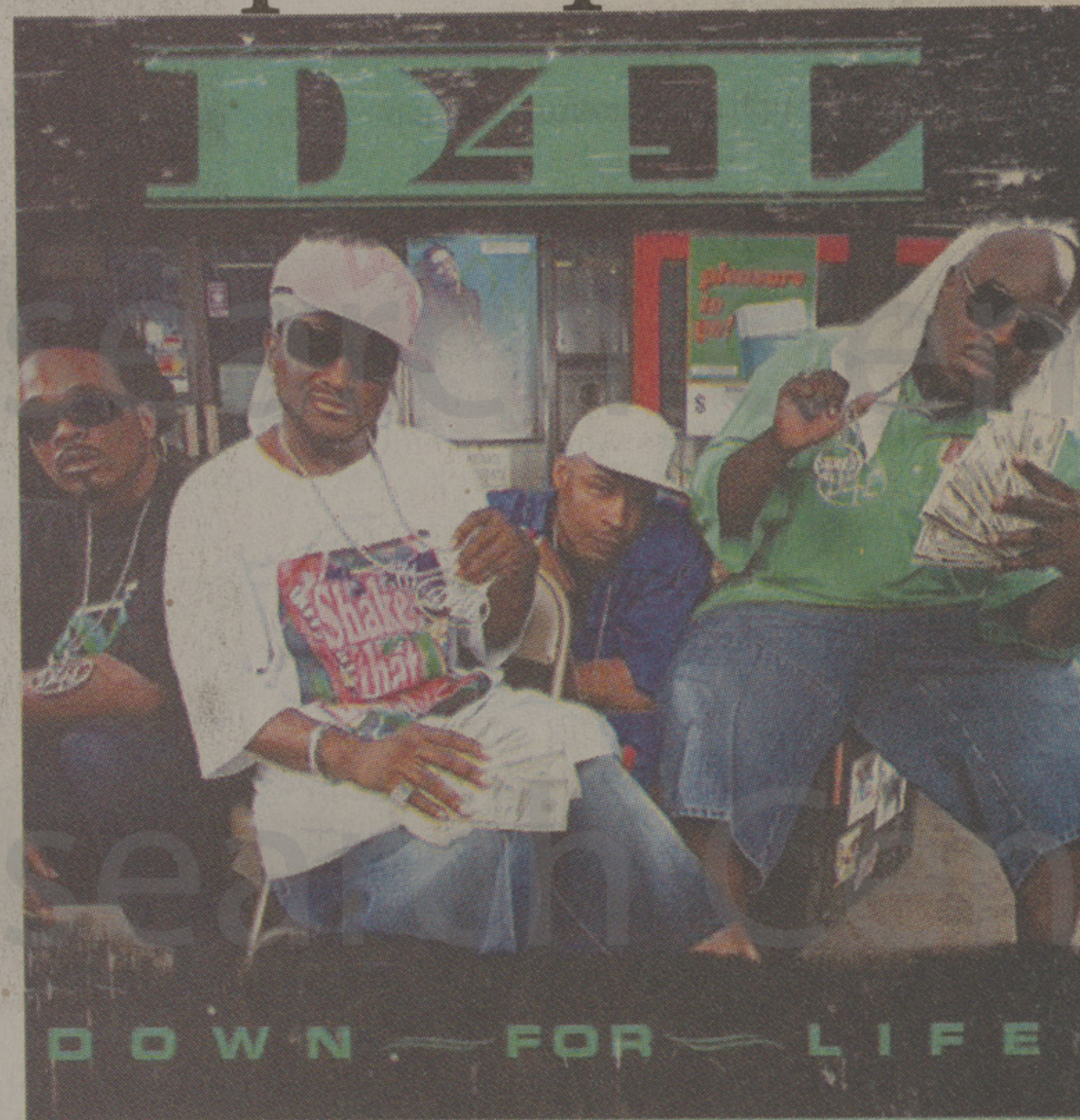
While there is power in numbers, a large portion of new age rappers are not considered emcees, merely entertainers. Even still, some believe there are only a select few with the courage to rap about diverse themes, like rappers Common, The Roots, Talib Kweli, Mos Def and Dead Prez.

While artists such as Nas and Jay-Z battle for the title of best rapper alive, artists such as Chamillionaire, Mike Jones, DJ Unk and Young Joe are at the top of the charts.

"Right now, there is less emphasis on raw talent," said junior music lover James Younge. "You can clearly see when artists like Ying Yang Twins and DJ Unk sell records."

Younge continued, "I feel like the industry is saturated with rappers who don't really have anything to say. It seems like the main focus these days is to create a hit that's going to make people dance. Although I'm not a fan, I still believe it has its place in hip-hop."

Some believe that an artist's talent is less important



Photos courtesy of www.sfgate.com

**Some believe corporate executives are more concerned with profits and less concerned with messages in hip-hop.**

than his mass crowd appeal. They believe that music industry executives may overlook talented artists with a message in order to make a quick dollar with one-hit wonders who have people's attention for the moment.

Antoinette Lawson, who serves as the program director at WHBC Channel 51 and

is also known as DJ Nett, said, "Corporate [executives are] looking for something simple and catchy that will sell. So at the end of the day, it's all about what will sell the most."

She added, "Hip-hop is not in its original state anymore. Everything is so commercial for the popular consumer."

## Students Disown BET as 'The Black TV Network'

BY STEPHANIE KENNARD  
Contributing Writer

BET's brand position is to "provide contemporary entertainment that speaks to young black adults from an authentic, unapologetic viewpoint of the black experience."

Some wonder if the continuous airing of music videos speaks to Howard students who make up that young black population.

With 2006 being BET's best year in ratings, it is clear that people are watching.

Bishetta Dionne Merritt,



Photo courtesy of www.bet.com

**Although BET was created to represent blacks on TV, many students feel the channel has lost this purpose.**

Ph.D., a professor in the radio, television and film department, is concerned with the misrepresentation of the black population on as she calls it "Second Tier" television networks.

"Programming [in general] has truly evolved during our decades," Merritt said.

"African Americans used to very much be a part of programs with roles of authority and of figures who made contributions to society. Now, it has come to a point where on the basic ABC, CBS and NBC very few shows have those actors," Merritt added.

Merritt said that shows like "A Different World," "The Fresh Prince," and "The Cosbys" are no longer easy to come by.

Those shows had blacks in honorable positions such as judges, professors, doctors, lawyers and scholars.

"I simply wonder if the lack of these shows will cause young people to start believing that blacks are not serving in

these prestigious roles in society," she said.

Many students are troubled with the representation of the black community on television as well.

Whennah Andrews, a sophomore nursing major, said that because blacks are the minority in this country, the majority uses the smallest and most convenient form of representation, which is television, to form opinions about the black community.

"Other cultures judge us on what they see on television and because we are the minority, we tend not to be viewed as individuals, but rather as a whole," Andrews said.

Andrews cited her matriculation in high school to further support her belief. At Andrews' high school, she was a minority student and during class time whenever the class was interested in how blacks would "feel" about something, she was repeatedly referred to for information.

As a result, Andrews

does not believe that BET is an accurate portrayal of the black community and black life. Many students agree with Andrews.

They should "change the name of BET," said sophomore film production major Michael Cadenhead. "The name gives the impression blacks are being represented, but it's now owned by whites."

Shantel Williams, a sophomore political science major, also feels that the BET brand is an injustice.

"Just because [African Americans] are what's on doesn't mean you have to call it black entertainment," Williams added.

Many believe BET should portray the 1.1 million blacks holding advanced degrees on their programs.

There is a plethora of black entertainers and athletes on BET. However, reaching that status of being a high profile celebrity is very challenging and opportunities are slim.

## Driven: Plans For HU Student and 'Jericho' Actor

BY LAURA PEREZ  
Contributing Writer

Many students come to Howard to gain an education while also pursuing other interests. For some, it is difficult to balance academics with outside career opportunities. For Stephen Redhead, it comes naturally.

Redhead, a senior political science major, is a rapper, actor and full time student. He is currently working with Songbook Entertainment, playing a role on the CBS series "Jericho," and preparing to graduate this May. However, Redhead has no problems staying focused and has no plans to slow down after graduation.

"After I graduate, I'm going to either work on Capitol Hill or for Hot 97 in New York. My goal is to solidify the foundation for a decent living," Redhead said.

Along with becoming financially secure, Redhead plans to continue his career in music.

"As far as the music is concerned, my goal is to get respect. I've dealt with labels before and I don't want to mess with that again. This

is just for fun right now, but anything is a possibility," Redhead said.

Raised in the District by parents from Jamaica and Grenada, Redhead was exposed to a wide variety of music at a young age.

"My family is Caribbean, so I heard a lot of reggae and soca growing up. And of course, I'm from here, so I heard a lot of go-go," Redhead said.

Thanks to his diverse influences, which currently include Nas and Raphael Saadiq, Redhead is able to make unique music that reflects his own real life experiences.

"I'm a reality check artist. I talk about the things that no one else is talking about, like real life experiences

and politics. For example, I just wrote a song about Shaquanda Cotton. And if there's a topic that somebody already used, but I feel that it can be expanded on, I'll do that too," Redhead said.

As an up and coming hip-hop artist, Redhead said there are many barriers and stereotypes for him to overcome. Changing people's negative

views of the genre has become his motivation.

"There's a lot of wackness out there. Because of that, there's a stigma that people who rap are not actual musicians and don't put any thought into what they say," he said.

In response to this, Redhead's objective has become proving the critics

wrong. His music is a testament to the fact that there are still rappers who stay true to the art form.

"I want to be different. Young black males in the hip-hop industry typically have to speak about things that are detrimental to the community in order to get attention. I come from



Photo Courtesy of www.tv.com

**Senior political science major Stephen Redhead plans to pursue either a career in government or music after graduation.**